HOPE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
320 JOHNSONBURG ROAD, P.O. BOX 293
HOPE, NEW JERSEY 07844
908-459-4242

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026

For the Regular Meeting of the Hope Township Board of Education
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hope Township School Media Center.

Hope Township School, in cooperation with our community, values the importance of a supportive, challenging education for all students delivered through an effective, contemporary curriculum that meets or exceeds the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. By fostering communication and respect in a positive educational environment, all children can realize their potential.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Beatty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is either discussed or acted upon. In accordance with this provision of the act, the Hope Township Board of Education has sent notice of this meeting, stating the date, and place, to the Star Gazette and the New Jersey Herald, and posted the same in the Hope Township School, Municipal Building, and Post Office.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Andrea Beatty	***Present***	Mrs. Diane Kasharian	***Present***	Mrs. Tina Ritchie	***Absent***
Mrs. Linda Chamberlain	***Present***	Mr. Mathew Leitner	***Present***		
Mr. Joseph Ciccarelli	***Present***	Mr. John Lucas	***Absent***		

Also present, Tammy Green, CSA and Lori Tirone, SBA/BS

V. PRESENTATION

Presentation of Annual Comprehensive Audit Report by Anthony Ardito of Ardito & Company LLC

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Hope School Happenings
Presentation of Paw Awards - PAWSitively Determined
Presentation of Red Apple Award - Staff New Year, New Energy - Melissa Woodhull
Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation - Board Members

Mrs. Green reported on:

- Donations from Ladies Auxiliary
- Donations from Mr. Patel at Dunkin Donuts
- New substitutes
- Facility upgrades, painting of hallway, new light fixtures, roof fixed, and heat in gym

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to approve Administrative Reports items 1 and 2.

1. APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE SSDS REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve submission of the Student Safety Data System Report for the reporting period July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

2. SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

WHEREAS, The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2026 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school school board members; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Township Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, The Hope Township Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Education provide accountability to the public, they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and, they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Hope Township Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join

communities statewide in observing January 2026 as **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Hope Township Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING & PETITION

Vice President Beatty opened the public hearing for public comment.
Mrs. Trotter, teacher, discussed audit and pawsitivity throughout the school.

IX. MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Kasharian to approve the following minutes.

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the Board of Education meeting, held on the dates indicated as transcribed, be approved and filed.

December 16, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025 - Executive Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2026 - Reorganization Meeting Minutes

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

X. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION - Mr. Lucas, Mr. Ciccarelli

MOTION by Mrs. Kasharian, seconded by Mrs. Beatty to approve Buildings & Grounds/Transportation item A.

A. Approve the Use of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, to approve the use of the gymnasium and kitchen for the "Chef It Up School Program" on 03/03/26, 03/10/26, 03/24/26, and 03/31/26 from 3:20 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XI. COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mr. Leitner, Mrs. Kasharian, Mrs. Beatty

The committee did not meet.

XII. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY - Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Kasharian

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Kasharian to approve Curriculum item A.

A. Approve Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve a field trip to Quiet Valley Historical Farm, Stroudsburg, PA for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades on June 4, 2026. Transportation will be provided by the district.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XIII. FINANCE - Mr. Ciccarelli, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Chamberlain

MOTION by Mrs. Beatty, seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to approve Finance items A through G.

A. Acceptance of the Financial Report December 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 requires the Board Secretary and the Hope Township Board of Education to certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that the sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10 further requires the Hope Township Board of Education receive and accept the monthly financial statements, the Board Secretary's, and Treasurer's reports; and

WHEREAS, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, for the month ending December 31, 2025, are presented for the Board to accept and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Hope Township Board of Education acknowledges receipt of and accepts the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and Hope Township Board of Education certify that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that there are sufficient funds available to meet the district's financial obligation.

B. Approval of Budget Transfers for December 2025

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C.6A:23A-16.10-(c)1 states that a report shall be presented to the Board showing all transfers between line-item accounts for each line-item account shown on the budget prepared in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:22-8; and

WHEREAS, transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for the time period of December 2025 were necessary to maintain the needs of the district and are on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, that Hope Township Board of Education ratifies and approves the transfers in the report "Budget Transfers" for December 31, 2025 in fiscal year 2025-2026, approved by the Chief School Administrator, so that no budgetary line-item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds would be available to meet the district's financial obligations.

C. Approval of November 2025 and December 2025 Claims

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:19, Expenditure of Funds; Audit and Payment of Claims, provides Boards of Education to make payments on claims for goods received and services rendered payable to the order of the person entitled to receive the amount after approval by the board; or in accordance with payrolls duly

certified; or debt service or when provided by resolution approval by a person designated by the board; and

WHEREAS, a list of bills for the months of November 2025 and December 2025 are being presented to the board with the recommendation that they be ratified, approved and paid; and

WHEREAS, each claim or demand has been fully itemized, verified and audited as required by law in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:19-2;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, ratifies and approves the list of bills for payment in the grand sum of $99,970.02 for December 16, 2025 through December 31, 2025 and $385,364.69 for January 1, 2026 through January 20, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the list of bills is on file in the Office of the School Business Administrator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to pay bills if it is determined that a need arises prior to the next board meeting.

D. Acceptance of the 2025 Audit

WHEREAS, the Hope Township Board of Education (the Board) caused an annual audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions to be conducted by a public school accountant for the 2024-2025 fiscal year pursuant to NJSA 18A:23; and

WHEREAS, said "Annual Comprehensive Financial Report" (ACFR) and "Auditor's Management Report" (AMR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, are required to be filed with the Office of the Commissioner, pursuant to NJSA 18A:23-3; and

WHEREAS, a presentation of the audit with discussion of the district's fiscal status, any audit findings and recommendations was made to the Board and public by Anthony Ardito of Ardito and Company LLC audit firm at the board meeting of January 20, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the presentation allowed for a public discussion of the audit results including the district's overall financial position, reserved, unreserved and excess surplus fund balances, funding of worker's compensation and compensated absences, and food services' operations; and

WHEREAS, the presentation further allowed for a public discussion of the audit results including any audit findings and recommendations, repeat recommendation, significant deficiency, material deficiency, and Corrective Action Plan needed; and

WHEREAS, the synopsis of the ACFR was available to the public at the January 20, 2026 board meeting with copies of the synopsis available at the offices of the School Business Administrator upon request; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hope Township Board of Education accepts the June 30, 2025 audit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be directed to forward to the Executive County Superintendent the minutes together with necessary copies of the ACFR,

Synopsis, Corrective Action Plan, and certified board minutes adopting the above items or as stated in the Department of Education's requirements.

E. Accept Donation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept a donation from Dahuel Patel of Dunkin Donuts in the amount of $750.00.

F. Accept Donation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, accept a donation from the Hope Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary in the amount of $350 in gift cards.

G. Approve NJSBGA Conference Attendance

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Honacy Beco to attend the New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association (NJSBGA) Conference at Harrah's in Atlantic City on March 22rd through March 25th. The registration is $350.00 which includes meals. Lodging estimated cost is $300.00. And mileage estimated is $137.24.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XIV. PERSONNEL - Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Leitner

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Beatty to approve Personnel items A through F.

A. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Laura Sullivan as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

B. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Jennifer Crilly as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

C. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Adam Twist as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

D. Approve Nurse Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Tori Corcoran as a teaching substitute at a rate of $200.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

E. Approve Secretary Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Jen Deyong as a secretary substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

F. Approve Substitute

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, upon recommendation of the Chief School Administrator, approve Jenniffer Fersch as a teaching substitute at a rate of $120.00 daily for the 2025-2026 school year, pending background check.

On a roll call vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XV. POLICY - Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Chamberlain
No committee update.

XVI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Mrs. Kasharian

Mrs. Kasharian reported on legislative items introduced:
Portable antichocking devices.
School Psychologist in each school.

XVII. BHS BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mr. Ciccarelli

No update.

XVIII. WHITE BOARD MEMBER UPDATE - Mrs. Ritchie

Mrs. Beatty reported:
Reorganization meeting
Archery Club
Annie Jr. Play in March.

XIX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

No good of the order.

XX. PUBLIC HEARING AND PETITION

Vice President Beatty opened the public hearing for public comment. No one from the public made any comments.

XXI. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF HIB INCIDENTS

MOTION by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Chamberlain to acknowledge receipt of no HIB investigations.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The motion passed.

XXII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mrs. Kasharian.

On a voice vote, all present were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori A. Tirone
Board Secretary